



## **NEWS FROM NOAA**

**NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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### **NOAA DEBUNKING LIGHTNING'S CONNECTION TO CELL PHONES**

Contrary to recent media reports, NOAA lightning experts state that lightning is not attracted to people carrying cell phones.

"Cell phones, small metal items, jewelry, etc., do not attract lightning. Nothing attracts lightning. Lightning tends to strike taller objects," said John Jensenius, a National Weather Service Lightning Expert. "People are struck because they are in the wrong place at the wrong time. The wrong place is anywhere outside. The wrong time is anytime a thunderstorm is nearby."

If the sky looks threatening or you hear thunder, you are in danger of being struck and should get inside a sturdy and enclosed building or hard-topped metal vehicle immediately. Remember, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors."

NOAA's national Lightning Safety Awareness Week is June 18-24. Last year in the United States, lightning was reported to have killed at least 43 people. On average, lightning is responsible for 66 fatalities annually. Additionally, hundreds of people are injured by lightning.

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On the Web:

NOAA Lightning Safety: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>

NOAA Lightning Safety (en Espanol):

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/espanol.htm>

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>